

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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ILLINOIS CHURCH ADOPTS PROGRAM FOR WAR-TIME

Sensing the difficulties and temptations which confront a church in times of international tension and war, the Austin Boulevard Christian Church, Oak Park, Illinois, Harold L. Langer, pastor, through its official board has formulated a "Declaration of Purpose" to guide the church under conditions of stress. Early in February the chairman of the board of officers appointed a committee representing the varying shades of opinion in the congregation and charged it with responsibility for studying the matter of the church's responsibility in time of war and formulating a declaration of purpose upon which the entire church might unite. On March 10 the committee brought the following report to the board of officers, which was unanimously adopted and presented to the congregation on March 23.

"The Declaration of Purpose"

"Inasmuch as Jesus Christ, the founder of the Christian Church, living in a time of political disturbance and tension, and while His own people were under the yoke of Roman conquerors, continued to use His influence and talents to emphasize true religion, love of God and love of fellow man, and refused to participate in or be made a party to political moves designed to inflame hatred or ill will against any people; and since we in this church profess to follow His leadership and example; we declare that the purpose of the Austin Boulevard Christian Church shall be to:

- '1. Have as its objective, now as always, the continued vigorous preaching of the true religion of Jesus Christ.
 - '2. Constantly emphasize that true Christianity requires forgiveness, brotherly love and goodwill toward all men regardless of race, color, or creed.
 - '3. Make its prayer, preaching, and teaching truly Christian for the continued building of Christian character and the maintaining of right relationships and attitudes toward our fellow men rather than for promotion of national propaganda.
 - '4. Maintaining its sanctuary for the specific purpose of furthering God's kingdom, and creating a deep Christian spirit for all who worship in it to insure continued fellowship and goodwill between all Christians, including those who differ, however widely, about the war and participation in it.
 - '5. Maintaining in its life and relationships the essential Christian fellowship in spite of
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DISCIPLE CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS MOVE TO CAMP

Figures released by the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, the cooperative agency set up by the churches to deal with the government on matters relating to conscientious objectors, indicate that out of the first 206,000 men called for military service under the Selective Service Act, 1822 were classified as conscientious objectors. At this rate the total number of C. Os. in the first draft of 800,000 men will be approximately 7,200 instead of the 5,000 estimated by military authorities. On April 9th, 500 of these men had been ordered to report to Civilian Public Service Camps for a year of "work of national importance under civilian direction" in lieu of military training. The religious bodies to which these men belong are listed below. The wide variety of denominational affiliation indicates that pacifism is no longer the doctrine solely of the historic peace churches.

Mennonite	165
Church of the Brethren	63
Jehovah's Witnesses	50
Society of Friends	39
Non-affiliated	29
Presbyterian	28
Church of Christ	16*
Baptist	15
Congregational Christian	13
Catholic	10
Lutheran	7
Christadelphian	7
Evangelical and Reformed	7
Church of God	6
Seventh Day Adventist	6
Episcopalian	6#
Unknown affiliation	5
Protestant Episcopal	4#
Pentecostal	4
Protestant Evangelical	3
Disciples of Christ	3
Christian Science	2
Nazarene	2
Wesleyan Methodist	2
United Brethren	2
Evangelical	2
Four Square Gospel	2
Unitarian	2
Assembly of God	2
Christian	2*
Fellowship of Reconciliation	2

*Due to the fact that Disciple churches use the designations Disciples of Christ, Church of Christ and Christian Church in various parts of the country, it is necessary to examine the
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This is a special appeal to pastors on behalf of conscientious objectors. About 200,000 young men have been classified for immediate service under the Selective Service Act of 1940. Of this number some 1800 have been classified as conscientious objectors under the terms of the Act and will move to Civilian Public Service Camps as their numbers are called by local boards. If the program of classifying and calling the entire 800,000 men of the first draft is completed by July 1st, it will mean that approximately 7200 will be classified as conscientious objectors, on the experience thus far gained.

While the Selective Service Administration has thus far shown every indication of interpreting the law with the widest liberality in cases where conscientious objection is claimed, there are situations which cannot be controlled by the Washington Office and which call for the exercise of watchfulness and helpfulness on the part of pastors whose young men are being called into service. Local boards sometimes take things into their own hands and send men into military training in utter disregard of the safeguards guaranteed by law. An Indiana draft board is alleged to have refused to recognize any grounds for conscientious objection and to have sent Mennonite young men into the army in spite of their religious convictions. Another case involved a young man who thought he was being sent to a Civilian Public Service Camp and ended up in a tank corps outfit. When this case was brought to the attention of the Secretary of War he was ordered discharged from the Army and returned for proper and legal classification. In one New York case a conscientious objector was dragged bodily from the draft board meeting and inducted into military service. When this matter was reported to Washington by long distance telephone the Selective Service Administration called the local board by long distance telephone and ordered the young man released and issued a circular forbidding any such tactics by any local board in the future. In another case a local board refused to exempt a Disciple minister as required by Section 5 (d) of the Act and gave him a classification of 1(A)(3), liable to service but deferred on account of dependents. It took an appeal to Washington to get this man properly classified.

In another case a Disciple young man, an enrolled conscientious objector who had complied with all the requirements of the law, was refused classification as a C.O. and sent into the Army because a member of the local board, a Disciple, declared that nothing in the 'creed' of our church forbade military service. Since the law provides for C.Os. on the basis of "religious training and belief" and not on the basis of the creed of the religious body to which he belongs, this was in plain violation of the law. This case is also being appealed with good prospects of rectifying the injustice done the young man.

Some cases have arisen where either the young man was not informed of his rights or failed to avail himself of them. The son of a Virginia pastor allowed the matter to drift thinking he would be disqualified on physical grounds, only to find that the Army physical

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After numerous delays occasioned by inability to secure release by various departments of government of camp sites assigned for Civilian Public Service camps in which conscientious objectors will be assigned for a year of "work of national importance under civilian direction" in lieu of military training, the National Service Board for Religious Objectors on April 9th announced the opening of the following camps. (The name in parentheses following the camp location indicates the religious body sponsoring the camp.)

- Camp 1, Patapsco, Maryland (Friends)
- Camp 2, Manistee, Michigan (Brethren)
- Camp 3, Grottoes, Va. (Mennonite)
- Camp 4, San Dimas, California (Friends)
- Camp 5, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Mennonite)
- Camp 6, Lagro, Indiana (Brethren)

In addition, the following camps have been selected and are awaiting approval of the governmental agency having charge of them before being opened for reception of men.

- Camp 7, Cooperstown, N.Y. (Friends)
- Camp 8, Royalston, Mass. (Friends)
- Camp 9, Petersham, Mass. (Friends)
- Camp 10, Daleville, Va. (Brethren)
- Camp 11, Magnolia, Ark. (Brethren)
- Camp 12, Merom, Indiana (Cooperative)
- Camp 13, Marietta, O., (Mennonite & Brethren)
- Camp 14, Cape Hatteras, N.C. (Friends)

TRAFFIC TOLL RISES WITH LIQUOR CONSUMPTION

On March 28 the National Safety Council reported that February 1941 was the worst February on record in the matter of traffic accidents. During that month 2,560 persons died as the result of traffic accidents in the U.S. The death toll was 22% greater than in February 1940 and came within 30 of reaching the all time high. These figures brought the total traffic deaths for 1941 (two months) to 5,370, a 16% increase over the same months last year. This increase is in spite of marked reductions in some states. Oregon, for instance, dropped 40% in traffic deaths during January and February. New Hampshire reduced its traffic deaths 38%. Vermont, Utah & Wyoming had decreases ranging from 28% to 29%. Cities continue to have fewer fatal accidents than rural areas. Almost 200 cities still had perfect records at the end of Feb., the largest being Oklahoma City, with a population of 206,800.

It is no strange coincidence that these tragic figures are paralleled by a marked increase in consumption of alcoholic beverages. According to Internal Revenue figures the American people consumed approximately 133,603,352 gallons of distilled spirits last year, plus 67,386,384 gallons of wine and 1,643,221,068 gallons of beer, ale, etc. This is approximately 13½ gallons per capita. The absolute alcohol contained in these beverages, at the usual average percent of alcohol content for the various types, was about 142,000,000 gallons, or slightly more than 1-1/3 gallons of pure alcohol per capita. If it be taken into account that a very large portion of the population does not use alcoholic beverages at all, it will be obvious that consumption per drinker must be much greater than these figures indicate.

One defense development about which the War Dept. is issuing no releases is the reported purchase of 30 large passenger liners for the Army Transport Service. Common rumor in Washington is that these vessels are being feverishly transformed into troop transports. It can be taken for granted that these ships are not to be used to transport American troops to camps in Missouri & Kansas and that they will not be used on the Mississippi River or the Great Lakes.

Drew Pearson & Robert Allen, in their "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column declare that it can now be written down that a German invasion of Russia will occur by mid-summer, if not before. In the light of this prediction the invasion of Yugoslavia begins to make sense. With the capture of Salonika Germany has already cut Thrace, the westernmost province of Greece, off from help from Athens. She has also run a wedge between Greece & Turkey. If she can win the Battle of Greece she can then turn her attention to Russia. Once upon the plains of the Ukraine the capture of the Dardanelles will not be difficult. The way will then be open to the oil fields of Mosul & Britain's Suez life-line. The overthrow of the government of Iraq by a pro-Hitler group is an important item in the total picture. It can also be taken for granted that Stalin's non-aggression pact with Japan, which startled the world on Easter Sunday, is a counter-move on the part of Russia to meet this menace. It is a desperate effort on the part of Stalin to stave off possible attack in the rear while meeting Hitler in the west.

During recent labor disturbances newspapers, in general, have carefully concealed the fact that the most important strikes were due to refusal on the part of employers to obey the plain mandate of the law. Under the National Labor Relations Act employers are required to bargain collectively with their workers through representatives of the workers' own choosing. Thus collective bargaining is not only legal, but compulsory. In many cases strikes have resulted after the NLRB has found against the offending employer and in favor of his complaining employees. The Labor Board has found against the Ford Motor Co. in seven different cases & in each instance Ford refused to obey the orders of the Board. Bethlehem Steel has consistently refused to bargain with its workers except through a company union which, it is alleged, is company-dominated. The coal tie-up is due not to the workers, but to the inability of northern & southern coal operators to agree on a differential in price between northern & southern coal. Mining is one of the most hazardous occupations in America; the request of the miners for a wage of \$6 a day & 200 days work a year is modest enough. The tie-up is due to the unwillingness of the southern operators to surrender a 40¢ differential which has heretofore given them an important advantage. Then, as in the case of the Allis-Chalmers strike, police move against strikers with armored cars & the governor of the state attempts to lead a 'back-to-work' movement violence should not be regarded as unexpected. Strikes due to jurisdictional disputes between labor groups or to subversive leadership are regrettable and do the cause of labor much harm, but attempts to attribute all recent industrial stoppage to labor disloyalty are false & even more harmful.

According to a news release issued by the War Department on March 20, the Army announces its "determination to fulfill its duty to God as well as to country" by allocating \$12,816,880 for the construction of 604 permanent chapels in defense training camps. Under the new program religious worship in the army will be taken out of improvised buildings and open fields and given appropriate buildings constructed especially for religious purposes. The new chapels will be of uniform design, much like a typical country church, says the War Department, with slant roof and steeple. Each chapel will be constructed of wood and will cost approximately \$21,220. Seating capacity will be 400. A feature will be an altar that can be moved back on a track when the building is used for pastoral and cultural activities. When out of the way the altar fits into a recess at the rear of the chancel and can be covered by a sliding panel. Each chapel will be equipped with an electric organ. Protestant, Catholic and Jewish chaplains will use the building at hours to be assigned. Office space for chaplains will also be included in the building. The basic principle of distribution will be one chapel for each regiment. In the larger camps it is expected that from 15 to 20 will be constructed. In reception and replacement centers there will be one chapel for each 1200 men and in stations of less than 3,000 men one to each camp. In stations of over 3,000 men there will be one for each 2,000 men. There are about 1200 chaplains now in service and it is expected that this number will be increased to 1500 by July 1st.

The construction of these new chapels is one indication of a marked change of policy on the part of the War Department toward religion. It is no secret that Army leaders have been aware of the growth of anti-military sentiment among the churches during the past few years and have taken to heart the tendency of the churches to dissociate themselves from war-making machinery. During the World War the Army not only provided no equipment for chaplains, but religious services were held in mess halls, recreation halls, or in any space the chaplain could secure. Often the worshippers had to clean up the building before beginning services. The extent of the indifference to religion in the post-war army is indicated by figures released by the War Department showing that in the past 22 years only \$969,542 was spent for chapels in the Regular Army and only 17 of the 160 posts that needed chapels had them. In some cases men of a command built themselves places of worship out of salvaged materials.

The War Department has also defined more clearly the position and unction of the chaplain. Army regulations now protect him from the whim and caprice of officers commanding units to which he is attached. No longer can the chaplain be the 'man-of-all-work' around the post, serving as recreation officer, morale officer, canteen officer, mess officer, regimental postmaster, and the like. His place as a minister of religion and as the spiritual advisor of the men is recognized and protected. While the basis inconsistency of a minister of the gospel of love being attached to a service of force and mass murder still remains, it is something to know that his spiritual function is recognized and protected.

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individual record to determine how many of these boys belong to our churches and how many to the congregations of our conservative brethren.

#The same body; these figures should be together.

Among those referred to the Department of Social Welfare as Disciples or members of Churches of Christ are the following:

Dewis Bridges, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Arthur Joel Thomas, Greencastle, Indiana
Oliver W. Petty, Corvallis, Oregon
Robert F. Davis, Shelbyville, Tennessee
Norris Lee Basham, King, Texas
George J. Neiderman, Kansas City, Missouri
Osbron Ozrd Lay, Rusk, Texas
Carl Lester Dement, Rusk, Texas
Letcher Wiley Clifton, Rusk, Texas
Clyde Munn Riddle, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Enos Feltner, Hyden, Kentucky
Farris D. Ferguson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Daniel Zeiset, Chicasha, Oklahoma
Lucian L. Johnson, Louisville, Kentucky
Arthur Leroy Diddle, Lancaster, Ohio
Dwight D. Webster, Orange, California
Arthur Myers, Center Point, Indiana.

Two cases have been taken up with the Selective Service Administration for adjustment. Lloyd E. Pipes, of Mount Vernon, Ohio was inducted into the military service and sent to Camp Lee, Virginia despite his presentation of evidence as a C.O. on the representation of a member of the draft board that the 'creed' of the Disciples of Christ does not forbid military service. Since conscientious objection, under the Act, does not depend upon membership in a church whose doctrines forbid war, but upon the "religious training and belief" of the individual, we have asked that this case be reviewed and any injustice corrected. The other case is that of Earl Harbaugh, son of Ira Harbaugh, pastor of the First Christian Church, Arlington, Va., a suburb of Washington. Young Harbaugh failed to avail himself of the provisions of the Act relative to C.O.s. and was inducted into military service on April 10. The case has been taken up personally with the Selective Service Administration and assurance received that if the local board fails to reopen the case an appeal will be taken on his behalf by the government and an opportunity given to establish conscientious objection. In the meantime the number of names being referred to us for camp support demands rapid completion of the campaign to raise our share of the costs of camp maintenance and supervision.

(Appeal to Pastors continued)

examination failed to reveal his supposed disqualification. But he had failed to declare himself as a C.O. or to comply with any of the provisions of the law for his protection. Consequently he was inducted into the Army and an appeal had to be made to Washington on his behalf, with the outcome in doubt.

These are isolated incidents and are not characteristic of the operation of the Selective Service Administration by any means, but a sufficient number of such incidents have occurred to justify every pastor in taking steps to see that the rights of the young men of his church, conscientious objector and non-C.O. alike.

(continued from page one column two)

the antagonism and racial differences which set men against each other in war times by keeping its preaching, teaching, and ministering free from hatred toward any people or nation. "6. Guard against the use of any part of its building by any organization, agency or individual in such a manner as to violate the purpose for which this building was constructed and dedicated. "7. Share with other Christian Groups in endeavoring to create in the minds and hearts of men of our own and other nations, essential attitudes of world-mindedness, fair dealing and Christian brotherhood, which alone can bring about reconciliation of men and nations in a world order, justice and peace.

"Be it further recommended that:

"1. A Committee of three be established to share responsibility for carrying out this Declaration of Purpose; such committee to be composed of the pastor, the chairman of the official board, and one member of the congregation to be selected by the aforementioned members of the committee and approved by the official board. "2. Copies of this Declaration of Purpose shall be sent to the heads of all departments and organizations making use of the facilities of the church and distributed to the entire congregation as means of informing them of the policy, attitudes and program adopted for this church during these critical and trying times."

In presenting the statement to board of officers, Mr. E. H. Bertschi, chairman of the committee which drafted the document, said in part:

"The church is dedicated to the purpose of extending the kingdom of God. It cannot achieve this purpose if it substitutes any other preaching for that which holds Christ and His ideals and attitudes governing human relationships before its people. ... In the last war too many churches forgot the principles of Christ and the purpose for which they were established. They substituted other loyalties for loyalty to Christ. They permitted preaching, teaching, and prayer to become saturated with words which stirred up emotions and created ill will toward people of some other races and contrary beliefs. This action resulted in much criticism and the loss of much prestige after the war was over and people's thinking returned to normal. People expected the church to hold up the ideals of Christ. This they failed to do and they paid the price for betraying him as surely as did Judas nineteen centuries ago."

SECTION 562 P. L. & R

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